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"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

"That we here highly resolve that these dead should not have died in vain; that their nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TOPAZ CITIZENS FOR  
THE PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY  
(NON SEGREGATED UNITS)

In a public statement directed to the Sec'y of War Stimson, on Feb. 1, 1943, President Roosevelt expressed his views on the nisei's exercising their responsibilities of citizenship as follows:

"The proposal of the War Dep't to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly 5,000 loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country. This is natural and a logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

"No loyal citizen of the U.S. should be denied the democratic right to exercise his responsibilities of his citizenship regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, gov't service, or other work essential to the war effort.

"I am glad to observe that the War Dep't, the Navy Dep't, the War Manpower Commission, the Dep't of Justice, and the WRA are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort."

After reviewing the action of the 100th Battalion in Italy, the War Dep't has taken a great step in reinstating the Selective Service to American citizens of Japanese descent; "The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Battalion, a former Hawaiian Nat'l Guard unit now fighting in Italy, were major factors in the present plan."

Before and after Pearl Harbor, through evacuation, and relocation the nisei, American citizens of Japanese descent, have shown their loyalty by complying with all government regulations although it meant undue hardship. After a thorough investigation of the activities of the nisei prior to and after the war, responsible government agents have made the following statements:

- a. James Rowe, Jr., assistant to the Attorney General on April 20, 1942: "Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has advised me there was no sabotage committed there (in Hawaii) prior to Dec. 7, on Dec. 7, or subsequent to that time."
- b. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, on March 30: "The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor."
- c. Honolulu Chief of Police, Gabrielson: ".....There were no acts of sabotage committed in the City and County of Honolulu Dec. 7, nor have there been acts of sabotage reported to the Police Department since

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- d. Chief Agent, Hawaii, Federal Bureau of Investigation to Blake Clark, summer of 1942: "You can say, without fear of contradiction, that there has not been single act of sabotage."

To further test our loyalty to the U.S. the 100th and the 442nd Japanese American Infantry Battalion combat teams, composed mostly of volunteers, were organized. Tried as no other citizens have been tried and proven to be worthy Americans, we feel no further proof of our loyalty is necessary.

We are not only fighting for the sameness of purpose with other fellow Americans, but we are also fighting the war of American prejudice and intolerance at home.

President Roosevelt has stated that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry, but in actual practice the acceptance of the people of this statement can only be achieved by fighting side by side with other free Americans of other descent; and with the co-operation of the War Department.

With the above facts and the principles of American democracy in mind the Topaz Citizens Committee is opposed to the discriminatory segregation of all Japanese American draftees. Therefore, we make the following recommendations to the President of the United States and to the War Department.

1. No further segregated units of Japanese Americans be formed.
2. Draftees are not to be made replacements for the segregated 100th nor the 442nd Battalions.
3. All draftees to be assigned to various units of the army as other Americans.
4. If qualified, all branches of the armed forces to be opened to the Japanese American draftees.

In making these recommendations we are thinking of the post war advantages in fighting side by side with other Americans. Our fight for equal rights, equal privileges will not stop with the armistice. Our fight must continue, because we must fight the war of American prejudice. As well as winning the war at the battle front we are desirous of winning the war against intolerance that has subjected the minority groups at home. Buddies, regardless of color or ancestry, made on the battle fields can best help to accomplish this great task that is before us---a task that is for a greater America.

Topaz Citizens

Chairman:

Frank Yamasaki

Secretary:

Seiko Yakahi